

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 5, 7, and 10 stand objected to because of informalities.

Claims 1-3, 6, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,116,358 to *Sasaki*.

Claims 4-5 and 7 stand allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 10-14 stand allowed.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have cancelled claims 3-4 without prejudice or disclaimer, amended claims 1, 5, 7, and 10, and added new claims 15-17 to further define the invention. Accordingly, claims 1-2 and 5-17 are presently pending.

The Objections to the Claims

Claims 1, 5, 7, and 10 stand objected to because of informalities. Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 7, and 10 in accordance with the comments of the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

The Disposition of the Claim

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,116,358 to *Sasaki*. Claims 4-5 and 7 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the features of allowable dependent claim 4 (including intermediate claim 3) and have cancelled claims 3-4 without

prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of independent claim 1 and dependent claims 3-4 are moot.

Applicants have rewritten claim 7 (which was indicated by the Office Action to be allowable) in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 is in clear condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2, 5-6, 8-9, and 15-17 are allowable at least because of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1 and 7, as amended, and the reasons set forth above.

Claims 10-14 stand allowed.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that all pending claims are in clear condition for allowance.

Conclusion


In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under

37 C.R.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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